

*I believe that each and every film directed by Steven Spielberg corresponds to a single component of studio-backed filmmaking in that (a) this component is used heavily and crucially within the film; and (b) the narrative elements of the film itself comment on this component. I first noticed this with the film Jurassic Park during a screening of which nearly a decade ago in college I realized that much of what is said about the dinosaurs could be said about the advent of the amazing CGI effects that were deployed into popular cinema during the period in which the film was being released. I identified many of the “components” for each Spielberg film a few months ago in a single afternoon. What they all have in common is that they are things that one does not encounter often if at all in everyday life and hence also they are the things that make the movie industry so profitable, so worth seeing.*

Jaws ~ animatronics

Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark ~ miniatures

E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial ~ puppets

Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade ~ makeup plus face lighting

Jurassic Park ~ wholly CGI creatures

Saving Private Ryan ~ CGI enhanced live action components

A.I. Artificial Intelligence ~ wholly CGI human/humanoid characters

Minority Report ~ actor as athletic as hero character he is pretending to be

Catch Me If You Can ~ actor as smart as genius he is pretending to be

Lincoln ~ large ensemble cast of diversely-skilled world-class actors